Leytonstone, Wanstead & District Philatelic Society

The Bye-Post

No. 203 ***ed. Colin Stuart*** ***April 2016***

This year Easter fell absurdly early again, and our normal late March meeting landed slap-bang on Easter Monday and blew a hole in our regular programme. Now winter has been hanging on - despite the warmest December to February on record! As a tiny consolation, therefore, here is this year's newsletter. The programme for 2016-17 is for the moment still Work in Progress, but thanks to Rod's untiring efforts on our behalf we can look forward to another full twice-monthly schedule, commencing on Saturday **September 10th**. Can I repeat my last year's suggestion that on evenings when we have no outside presenter, members bring along some newly acquired or other small item that will interest the rest of us. Our membership has an astonishing diversity of interests, so let's not be too dependent on lectures by outside speakers (who are becoming more and more difficult to attract to our modest meetings). A good idea?

Meanwhile we have got used to the Forest Room, up under the rafters, and attendance at meetings has remained steady. The size and shape of the room lends itself very nicely to the running of our successful twice-annual auctions, the next of which will be on Monday **23rd May**. Before that we can look forward to the Spring Fair (another great success – thanks to Roy and all his helpers) on Saturday **April 9th** at Our Lady of Lourdes. On Monday evening **April 25th** we have our last 'normal' meeting when our speaker is Claude Crowder – his subject is 'Spain'. Please come and support him if you can.

Our programme of meetings in 2015-16 kicked off on **Sept. 12th** with a Members' show centred on the letter 'B'. Six members presented: *Booklet Panes, Belgium, 'Bordon' stamps of Canada, lots of 'B' Thematics, British Borneo and Indian & German States, all beginning with 'B'.*

On **Sept. 28th**, your Chairman chose from his Scandinavian collection *'Denmark and some old Danish Colonies', including Slesvig-Holstein, Danish West Indies, the Faroes and Greenland.*

On **October 26th** we were treated to contributions from three members of the Enfield club: Luigi Wiechula showed *'Issues cancelled or withdrawn';* Peter Lister gave us *GB Internal Airmails*, especially Scottish; and Steve Reeves showed *Controls on the two QV ½d 'Jubilee' stamps*.

After the November Auction, on **Nov. 14th** three Goodmayes members visited us. Keith showed Artists' *designs for Marshall Islands stamps;* our very own Stuart Henderson showed numerous 'local' cards and covers; and Cliff Cashman showed worldwide *U.S. Independence material* and *Morocco Agencies (British overprints).*

12th December saw our usual night of wild revelry, accompanied by the annual Stamp Quiz, this year a joint varied effort by Rod Crump and your Chairman (I can't just remember who won it!).

The New Year was launched on **Jan. 9th** with a show of Members' Favourites. Four were bold enough to show their wares, so we had examples of *Penny Blacks* and *'Seahorses'*, *QV Penny Mauves*, *old Canadian PCs* and a *Scandinavian miscellany,* including philatelic Trade Cards.

Next up came Keith Rowland on **Jan. 25th.** He presented *'Four Kings'* (British) – a detailed showing of proofs, trials, shades etc. of Edward VII to George VI. (Who will be around to welcome the stamps of Charles III?).

On **Feb. 13th** Margaret Browning, of Epping Forest Club, gave us her usual highly entertaining and informal evening, on this occasion presenting *Modern Stamps of Japan*.

Stuart Henderson brought along, on **22nd Feb**., some of his astonishing assembly of Cinderellas and odd-ball, quasi-philatelic material, this time including old Car-tax discs and licenses, old British banknotes and odd items from the Falkland Islands.

On **March 12th** our own Graham Coles showed us stamps of (British) *Egypt* from 1866 through till the late1950s Suez trouble, plus *Grenada*, a relatively neglected Caribbean colony.

That leaves us only one more outside visit, which will be on Mon. **April 25th**, when Claude Crowder will present *'Spain'*. We thank him and all the other outside speakers who will have given us their time and experience over the season as (rather too soon?) it comes to its close.

* * * * * * *

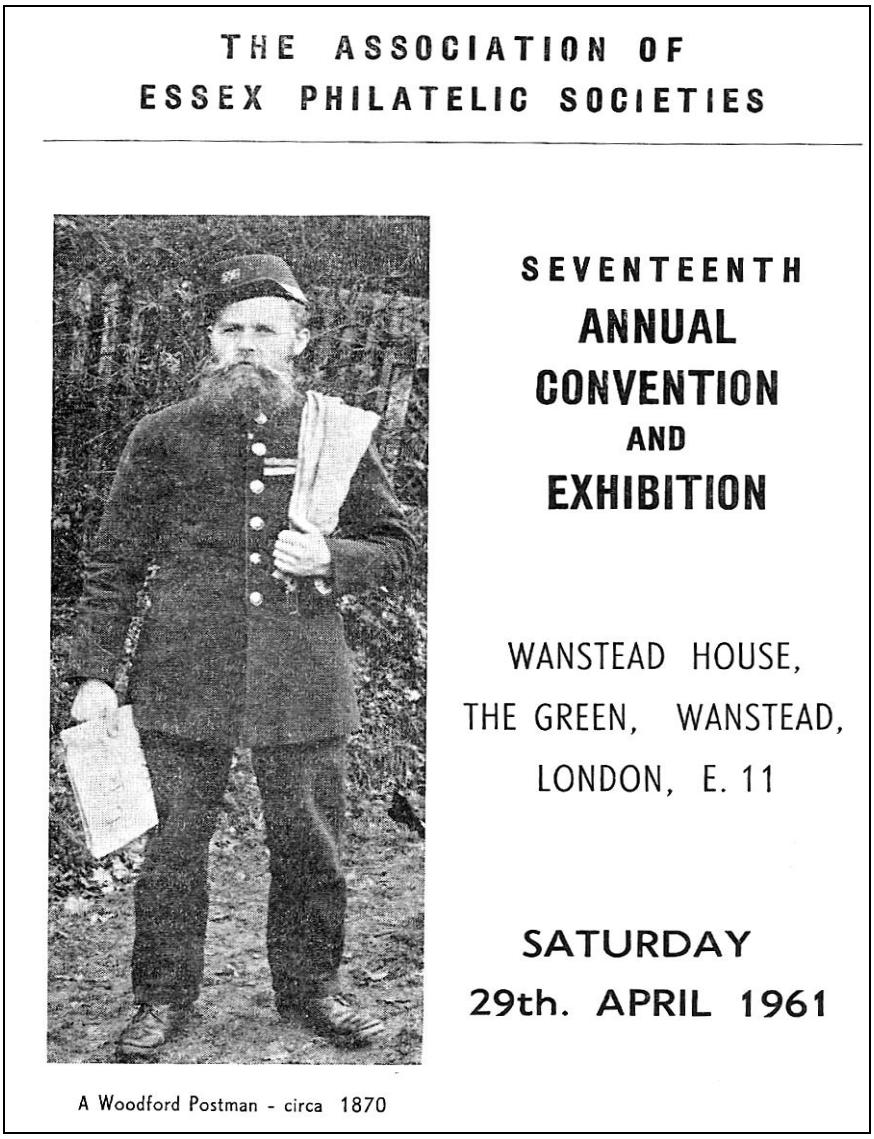
Our A.G.M. will be on **May 14th**, when we hope to confirm a change of Packet Secretary. Steve Roberts having moved away to the seaside (lucky man!) and Rod Crump finding it more and more of a strain, we were lucky and very grateful to Roy Simmons for stepping into the breach; he is already providing a pleasingly efficient service. He lives outside the area but will liaise through Rod as necessary. If you have any helpful thoughts on the way we run our Club or its programmes, the AGM will be the perfect place to air them.

Though our season's formal meetings are nearing an end, there are still the Fair and Summer Auction to look forward to. There are also Graham O'Hara's approximately bi-monthly Fairs at the Wanstead Library to help bridge any gap (he is an invaluable source of the philatelic sundries which have become more awkward to access). You might also consider joining the London and Provincial Stamp Club whose excellent Packet Service and occasional London meetings are 'right up our street' (Stuart Henderson provides a personal link).

* * * * * * *

Finally, to strike a more solemn note, stamp collecting, as we all of us are too well aware, is very much a shrinking pastime, in this country almost entirely confined to the older generation. Great credit is due to Gordon George for labouring on valiantly to introduce the sort of interested youngsters you and me used to be so long, long ago. He admits that it is up-hill work, and the age profile of our, and neighbouring clubs, is perfect evidence of the way things are going. This is no mystery: it is an obvious and proven fact that young people are in ever-growing thrall to a technology that provides instant stimulation and erodes users' span and depth of attention. Sadly they find us old and BORING!

However, it was not always thus. Featured below is a copy of the front cover from the Annual Convention of the Essex Philatelic Societies 1967, held **by us** (!) at Wanstead House. How the stamp world has changed since those golden days 51 years ago! (which of you remembers it?). The scale of that all-day programme provides a sobering measure of shrinkage down the years. It lists a formal Lunch and Opening Ceremony at the 'George', is a 42-page booklet (price 6d) with illustrated articles on Essex and German philately, sixteen full pages of trade advertisements, a schedule of displays, plus even a post-office counter. Despite our London postal address, we remain a member of the Essex Association to this day (with especial thanks to Avril Browne), but would find it pretty hard to mount a show like that now!



THE ASSOCIATION OF
ESSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

SEVENTEENTH
ANNUAL
CONVENTION
AND
EXHIBITION

WANSTEAD HOUSE,
THE GREEN, WANSTEAD,
LONDON, E. 11

SATURDAY
29th. APRIL 1961

A Woodford Postman - circa 1870